

Clinical and Translational Science Award (CTSA)

Opportunities for AHEC



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NAO Clinical /Translational Research Group

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Goals

- ❑ Encourage participation in research by AHEC-based practitioners/faculty
- ❑ Develop educational programs that support clinical and translational research
- ❑ Provide information to AHEC programs/centers about research opportunities, especially NIH CTSA program

Activities

- CTSA survey of AHEC programs/centers
- Presentations at NAO conferences/meetings concerning CTSA program opportunities



NIH Roadmap for Medical Research

- Series of initiatives that promote clinical and translational investigation & aim to improve health and prevent disease.
- Website: <http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/>

CTSA Program

- ❑ Transforms the local, regional and national environment for clinical and translational science
- ❑ Increases the efficiency and speed of clinical and translational research
- ❑ Creates an academic home, which can be a center, department or institute

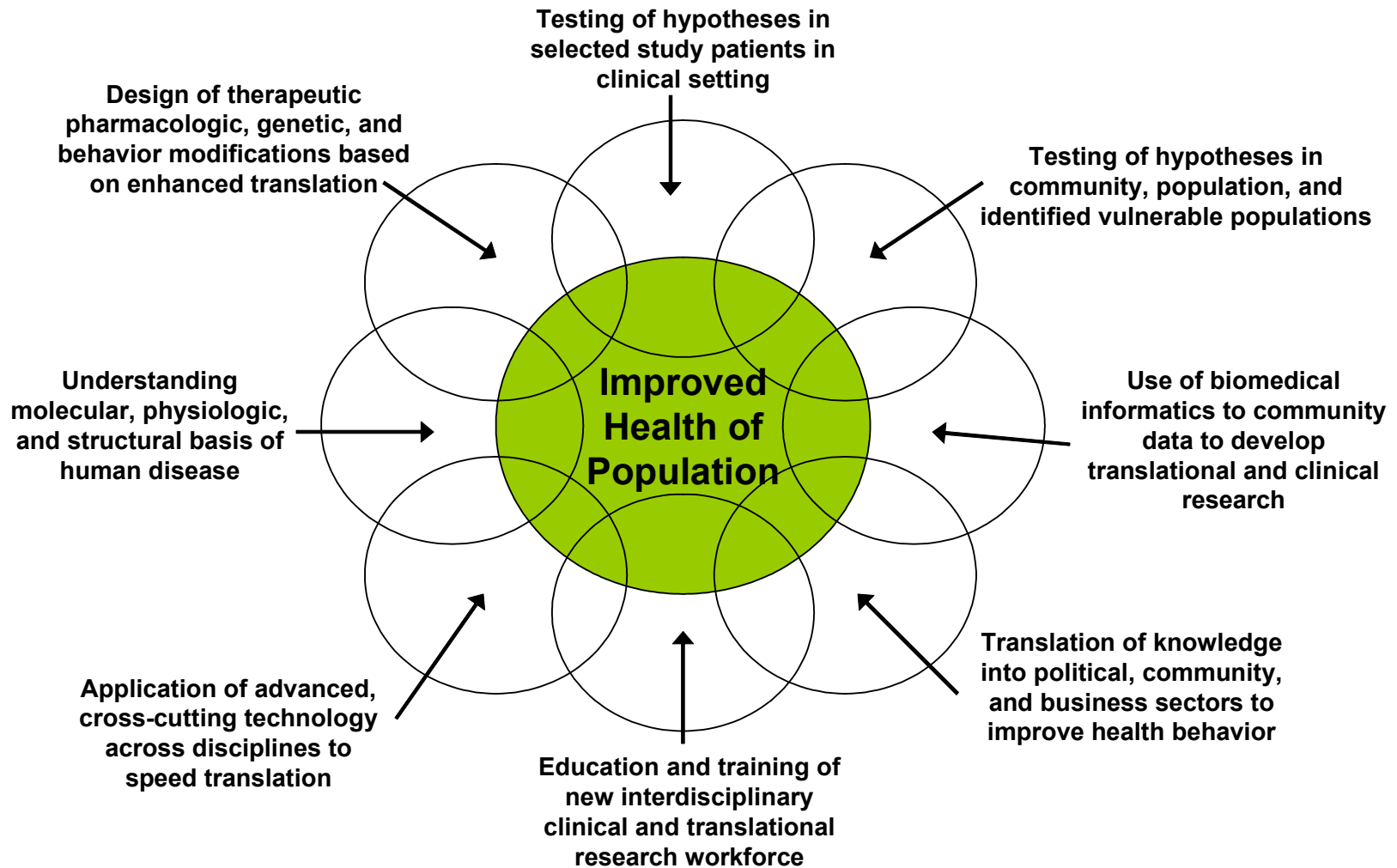
Definitions

- **Clinical Research:** studies and trials in human subjects
- **Translational Research:**
 - The process of applying discoveries generated during research to the development of trials and studies in humans; and
 - Research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community.

A Transforming Approach: NIH Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA)



- Implementing biomedical discoveries made in the last 10 years demands an evolution of clinical science
- New prevention strategies and treatments must be developed, tested, and brought into medical practice more rapidly
- CTSA awards will lower barriers between disciplines, and encourage creative, innovative approaches to solve complex medical problems
- These clinical and translational science awards will catalyze change—breaking silos, breaking barriers, and breaking conventions



Ways AHEC May Be Involved in CTSA Initiative

- Utilizing the AHEC network to offer CME/CE for community providers on evidence-based practices or on new research findings
- Encouraging dialogue between university researchers and community participants to assure an “upward” flow of ideas through contacts and introductions, community advocacy, meeting facilitation, etc.



Ways AHEC May Be Involved, con't.

- Utilizing AHEC staff at the community level, or adding new staff, to connect researchers to community groups in order to facilitate community-based research
- Training researchers in working with community groups, in cultural diversity and in creating win-win situations for both university & community professionals

Ways AHEC May Be Involved, con't.

- Utilizing existing electronic networks, including digital library resources developed by some AHECs, to post research resources, offer on-line instructional resources, and other services to support the CTSA initiative
- Training community groups to work with on-campus researchers, facilitate data collection at the community level, recruit community participants and in other ways create a seamless integrated system to support research and facilitate its translation into practice.

Ways AHEC May Be Involved, con't.

- Creating research tracks in AHEC health careers programs; one of the goals of the CTSA is to develop more basic and clinical researchers from underrepresented groups, and AHEC health careers programs offer a well developed source of underrepresented minority students who could enter a research career.

Strategies

- ❑ **Find and Develop** a champion (advocate) within the leadership of the research structure of your AHC.
- ❑ **Encourage and Host** research faculty to give presentations on their research in your communities.

Strategies

- ❑ **Organize Meetings** where researchers in your regional colleges doing health related research can discuss their research with AHC research faculty.
- ❑ **Provide Office Space** and administrative support for AHC research faculty who want to involve your communities in their research.

Strategies

- **Offer to Help Write** the community engagement part of the AHC application seeking the NIH planning grant or large \$\$\$\$ CTSA grant
- **Get Assurance** that your future efforts are written into the grant budget!!!!

2007 NAO – CTSA Survey

Results

- Responses: 11
- Involvement in CTSA: 7
- Substantial Involvement: 4
- Funding for AHEC: 4
(if applications are funded)



2007 NAO – CTSA Survey – con't.

Results

- ❑ Little involvement of AHEC in 2006-funded applications
- ❑ Most are in 2007 cycles (January or September)
- ❑ Four AHECs currently involved in community-based translational research

AHEC Contacts

Substantial Involvement

- Charles Cranford, Director, AR AHEC – cranfordcharleso@exchange.uams.edu; ph#501.686.5260
- Steve Shelton, Director, TX AHEC – steve.shelton@utmb.edu; ph#409.772.7884
- Tom Bacon, Director, NC AHEC – tom_bacon@med.unc.edu and Sam Cykert, Associate Director, NC AHEC – samuel_cykert@med.unc.edu; ph#919.966.2461
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Other AHEC Contacts

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- ❑ Nancy Sugden, Director, WI AHEC – nasugden@facstaff.wisc.edu; ph#608.263.4927
- ❑ Arthur Frazzano, Director, RI AHEC – arthur_frazzano@brown.edu and Robert Trachtenberg, Associate Director, RI AHEC – robert_trachtenberg@brown.edu; ph#401.528.3261
- ❑ Paula Winkler, Center Director, South Central Texas AHEC, winklerp@uthscsa.edu;



Other AHEC Contacts – con't.

- Paula Smith, Director, So. NH AHEC,
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Websites and References

- See list of funded CTSA applications at: <https://www.ctnbestpractices.org/networks/nih-ctsa-awardees/#ctsa>
- See current RFA at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-07-002.html>

Websites and References con't.

- “Translational and Clinical Science—Time for a New Vision” by Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, New England Journal of Medicine, Oct. 13, 2005.
- “NIH Launches Major Program to Transform Clinical and Translational Science” at www.nih.gov/news/pr/oct2005/ncrr-12.htm